

High Mountain Dams in Upalco Unit,
East Timothy Lake Dam
Ashley National Forest
81.4 miles north of Swift Creek Campground
Mountain Home Vicinity
Duchesne County
Utah

HAER No. UT-42-F

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80537

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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High Mountain Dams in Upaleo Unit, East Timothy Lake Dam

HAER No. UT-42-F

Location: 8.4 miles north of Swift Creek Campground, Ashley National Forest
Mountain Home vicinity, Duchesne County, Utah

UTM: 12.554660.4506580
Quad: Mount Emmons

Date of Construction: 1951

Builder/Designer: Swift Creek Irrigation Company

Present Owner: Moon Lake Water Users Association, Roosevelt, Utah 84066

Original Use: Dam

Present Use: Dam

Significance: With a crest length of almost 1,400 feet, the East Timothy Lake dam is distinguished as by far the largest dam in the Upalco Unit of the Central Utah Project. It was completed in 1951 as the last privately financed dam in the Swift Creek drainage, a substantial capital investment for the Moon Lake Water Users Association. The construction of the dam resembles that of other dams built in the 1910s and 1920s, indicating the relatively unsophisticated nature of earth-fill technology.

Inventoried by: Clayton Fraser and James Jurale
Fraserdesign
Loveland, Colorado

October 19, 1985

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The highest--11,000 feet--and most northerly situated lake on the Swift Creek drainage is East Timothy Lake. The lake is fed from an extensive drainage field involving five other lakes and 2,070 acres of land. Brigham Timothy was the first to file and receive an approved application from the State Engineer to impound irrigation water in the 40-acre lake sometime around 1920. He was awarded a Forst Service special use permit soon after and constructed a 12-foot by 18-foot sod dam across the outlet. Timothy's water rights to the lake were transferred to the Swift Creek reservoir Company, which in turn became part of the Moon Lake Water Users Association. In 1951, the irrigation company removed Timothy's rudimentary sod dam and built an extensive earth-fill structure, 1,390 feet long and 34 feet high, by scooping material from the lake basin. Today, the dam is subject to widespread seepage on the downstream toe, and the lake is maintained at maximum drawdown to avoid structural failure. It is proposed that the dam be stabilized and breached, with an outlet installed to lower the water to near its natural level.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Dam length: 1,390 feet
Dam height: 34 feet
Dam width: 15 feet
Construct: Earth fill dam with stone riprap facing
Lake size: 43.6 acres; 569 acre-foot maximum capacity; 19 vertical foot maximum drawdown
Outlet: Gated steel pipe

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

"Preliminary Engineering Report: Stabilization of High Mountain Lakes, Upalco Unit, National Forest Service Report, 1968, n.p.

William F. Gettleman, "Report on the Lakes and Reservoir of the Headwaters of the Uintah, Whiterocks and Lakefork Rivers, Uintah Project, Utah; February 1932," page 25.

East Timothy Lake Reservoir File #5161, Roosevelt District Ranger Office, Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt, Utah

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Robert Righter, July 25, 1985.

For additional information, see Irrigation Canals in the Uinta Basin, HAER No. UT-30.

High Mountain Dams in Upalco Unit,
East Timothy Dam
HAER No. UT-42-F
(Page 3)

